

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09223 181227Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 EB-11

COME-00 HEW-08 OMB-01 RSR-01 /083 W

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R 180955Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5482

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: LDP FORCES APPROVAL KEY BILLS IN HOUSE OF  
COUNCILLORS COMMITTEES

SUMMARY: ON JULY 17, LDP FORCED APPROVAL OF KEY BILLS IN THREE  
HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS COMMITTEES. ACTION HAS PRODUCED RENEWED  
DIET TURMOIL. SINCE CURRENT DIET SESSION ENDS JULY 24,  
DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT BILLS CAN BE PASSED IN  
PLENARY SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COORDINATED EFFORT AFTERNOON OF JULY 17, LDP USED ITS  
MAJORITY STRENGTH UNILATERALLY TO CUT SHORT DELIBERATIONS AND  
VOTE OUT KEY BILLS PENDING IN THREE HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS  
COMMITTEES. AS RESULT, DIET ONCE AGAIN THROWN INTO TURMOIL.  
BILLS, PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDED  
BILL FOR INCREASE IN NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER FARES AND  
FREIGHT CHARGES TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE), TWO DEFENSE-RELATED  
BILLS (CABINET COMMITTEE) AND TSUKUBA UNIVERSITY BILL  
(EDUCATION COMMITTEE). SIMILAR MOVE TO GAIN SOCIAL-LABOR  
COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT OF HEALTH INSURANCE BILL FAILED WHEN  
CHAIRMAN KAZUTAKA OHASHI (JSP) ADJOURNED COMMITTEE MEETING  
WITHOUT PERMITTING VOTE. PROCEEDINGS IN CABINET COMMITTEE  
INVOLVED MINOR SCUFFLES AS OPPOSITION MEMBERS SOUGHT TO  
STOP LDP MANEUVER.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 09223 181227Z

2. WITH CURRENT EXTENDED DIET SESSION SCHEDULED TO END JULY 24, LDP ACTION IS LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO SECURE PASSAGE IMPORTANT LEGISLATION BEFORE THAT DATE. OPPOSITION PARTIES DENOUNCING LDP TACTICS HAVE SUSPENDED ALL PARTICIPATION IN DIET AND ARE DISCUSSING COUNTER-MEASURES TO CHECK FURTHER PROGRESS OF THESE BILLS WHICH MUST STILL PASS PLENARY SESSION OF HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS. SPEAKER KENZO KONO, WHILE NOT DENYING LEGALITY OF LDP MOVE, PUBLICLY EXPRESSED HIS QUOTE INDIGNATION UNQUOTE OVER LDP ACTION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS QUOTE POLITICALLY INAPPROPRIATE UNQUOTE. HE REPORTEDLY SAID CHANNELS FOR TALKS BETWEEN LDP AND OPPOSITION NOW BROKEN AND SITUATION BEYOND HIS CONTROL.

HOWEVER,

KONO, WHO OPPOSES FURTHER EXTENSION OF DIET SESSION, MAY STILL TRY TO RESOLVE CONFLICT BY ASKING LDP TO AGREE TO QUOTE FURTHER DELIBERATION UNQUOTE.

3. IN EVENT CURRENT OFFENSIVE FAILS, LDP MEMBERS HAVE INDICATED TO EMPLOY THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY OF SECOND DIET SESSION EXTENSION.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE 65-DAY EXTENSION, LDP HAS SO FAR FAILED TO GET ANY OF KEY BILLS ON WHICH GOJ HAS STAKED ITS PRESTIGE PASSED AT THIS DIET SESSION. WITH ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT BEFORE THE END OF SESSION AND WITH CONSERVATIVE CONFIDENCE BOLSTERED BY RECENT TOKYO ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS, IT WAS INEVITABLE LDP WOULD TRY TO FORCE ISSUE. KEY TO SUCCESS OF LDP'S LAST-MINUTE STEAM ROLLER OFFENSIVE IS ATTITUDE OF SPEAKER KONO WHO IS PLEDGED NOT TO COUNTENANCE QUOTE MISUSE UNQUOTE OF LDP MAJORITY POWER TO FORCE LEGISLATIVE DECISIONS AND IS ALSO COMMITTED AGAINST FURTHER EXTENSION OF DIET.

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